

25 July 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: SB/C

SUBJECT : Yuri BACHA []

REFERENCE : 25 June 1969 memorandum same subject

1. The following is a report on a meeting between AECASSOWARY/29 and Yuri BACHA of Presov, CSR, which took place in New York City on 9 July 1969. After an exchange of brief amenities, BACHA suggested that they "get right down to business," and asked A/29 to take the initiative. A/29 began by asking BACHA what he was able to learn from his STB contacts. When A/29 talked with BACHA in Europe in September 1968, BACHA boasted that he could get little favors (obtain visas, etc.) from certain friends he had in the STB. He named one Josef PROKOPIC in Presov, whom he said worked in the visa department. (PROKOPIC, born 1925, small build, a Ruthenian by birth. A trace through RI and with SB/C in October 1968 proved negative.) At that time A/29 asked BACHA to determine from his friends in the STB just how much was known about the channels through which Soviet documents were obtained, and which if any of the Soviet or Presov Ukrainians involved were in any immediate danger. BACHA said that he had not had an opportunity to talk with his friends, but he went on to say that one should not underestimate either the STB or the KGB, that there was not much they did not know, and that although members of the services in the lower echelons might make some mistakes there must be an overall objective at the top and that this objective eventually would be realized.

2. BACHA said that Moscow along with Prague or Bratislav will want reassurances that the August 1968 invasion was a success. Therefore, he felt sure that some suppressive action would be taken in the near future. Also, a show trial of Ukrainian dissidents might be arranged in Kiev or Lvov, at which Ukrainian dissidents could be forced to compromise and denounce Ukrainian activists in Czechoslovakia.

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3. A/29 asked BACHA to explain why his passport had been held up by Czech authorities prior to his visit to the United States and later returned in time for his scheduled departure. BACHA said he was called in by the STB and questioned about activities in the Ukrainian community in Czechoslovakia by the chief of security in the Kosice area, a colonel, whose name he said he could not remember, and fnu DUSHAK. In order to get his passport back he had to promise to learn all he could about the "underground channels" through which dissident literature passes to the West and to make a written report on his return. He told A/29 that he enjoyed his position among Slovak scholars and that he was not keen on getting too involved in "underground" activities, which could compromise him in the eyes of Czech authorities. BACHA then asked A/29, "What should I write for them in my report?" A/29 told him that obviously he could not conceal the fact that he met with A/29, but that he did not have to reveal everything he knew.

4. BACHA said that KHMIL (Ivan Sergeyevich KHMIL, who works at the United Nations Secretariat in New York, ☐ wants to meet with him. He did not explain how he learned about it. He also told A/29 that everytime KHMIL travels home he makes a stop in Prague, because he "always has some business to take care of in Prague." Given KHMIL's KGB connections, it is very likely that BACHA is supposed to report to KHMIL on his contacts and activities in the United States.

5. A/29 asked BACHA about names of individuals he knew in the KGB or STB, and he asked whether BACHA knew TSURKAN (Valentin I. TSURKAN, ☐ formerly 2nd secretary to the Ukrainian Mission at the UN, known KGB). BACHA said he did not know TSURKAN but on a piece of paper wrote the name of NES'MIKH, and he asked A/29 whether he knew him. A/29 reminded BACHA that he had told him about NES'MIKH (Pyotr Ilyich), who he said was a KGB officer, during their meeting in Europe. At that time BACHA told A/29 that NES'MIKH approached him with the request to report on Czech students who had been in Kiev and that BACHA had refused to collaborate with NES'MIKH. BACHA claimed he did not recall telling this to A/29. BACHA said that he feels certain that Levko DOVHOVYCH in Presov is working for the KGB. He said Levko had been a prisoner in a Siberian camp following World War II, and that after his release he came to live in Presov only a short time following his return to his home in Uzhgorod.

6. A/29's impression following the meeting with BACHA was that BACHA regretted his involvement in "underground" activities

and that he wants out as soon as he can manage to do so. He realizes he has to pay a price for being permitted to come to the United States, but he would like to wipe the slate clean after his return and his report to the STB. According to A/29 BACHA is highly impressed with the nice homes which he has visited here. He is anxious to buy a car. He enjoys being accepted in the circle of scholars and he doesn't want to jeopardize his career by provoking the authorities. During the meeting in Europe, BACHA said he would write something for publication in the AECASSOWARY journal in Munich. At the meeting in New York, he said he would still write an article for the journal, but that he wanted a promise that its publication would be held up until a similar article appeared in Duklya in Presov.

7. It was determined during my meeting with A/29 and A/2 on 23 July that there was nothing which could be done at this point except to wait and see what happens. BACHA, in effect, warned A/29 that it is not safe to discuss operational matters with him any longer. Indications are that he already has reported a good bit if not all of what he knew in the past. Since he was involved in trying to get a copy of the manuscript of Ivan Dzyuba's Internationalism or Russification? to the West, he knows at least the people in Presov and in Kiev who were involved, as well as the Westerner who was given the document to carry to the United States. We never learned what happened to this document as the courier claimed it was confiscated by U.S. custom authorities in New York. He does not know who brought to the West the copy of the same DZYUBA document which was eventually published in London. He knows Ukrainians in Presov who have collaborated with the AECASSOWARIES and who have contacts with Soviet Ukrainian dissidents.

[SB/PO/M]

cc SB/CI